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BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Albizia julibrissin Durazz./Silktree

VARIETAL DENOMINATION

cv. 'Boubri'

This is a Continuation of United States Plant Patent Application
No. 10/125,421, filed April 19, 2002.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Albizia* tree (sometimes spelled "*Albizzia*"), botanically known as *Albizzia julibrissin* Durazz., and hereafter is referred to by the cultivar name 'Boubri'.

The new cultivar of the present invention was created during 1980 at Borderes sur L'Echez, France during the course of a controlled breeding program. The female parent (*i.e.*, the seed parent) was *Albizia julibrissin* 'Rosea Carr' (non-patented in the United States). The male parent (*i.e.*, the pollen parent) was an unnamed *Albizia julibrissin* seedling (non-patented in the United States). The seeds resulting from the cross were sown and small plants were obtained which were physically and biologically different from each other. Selective study resulted in the identification of a single plant of the new cultivar of the present invention.

It was found that the new *Albizia* cultivar of the present invention displays:

- (1) an attractive spreading generally umbrella-shaped growth habit,
- (2) a profusion of attractive strongly fragrant blossoms having long tufted stamens that bear carmine magenta-red coloration of good stability,
- (3) large glossy dark green foliage, and

Marked-Up Copy of
SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
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025200-043

- (4) good resistance to cold.

The growth character of the new cultivar is regular with the tree growing upward in somewhat distinct stages. The hardiness is noteworthy with the tree continuing to bloom well even in the north of France.

The new cultivar of the present invention can be readily distinguished from other *Albizia jubibrissin* cultivars including each of its parents. More specifically the new cultivar forms darker green foliage, displays more vigor, and forms flowers having a stable carmine magenta-red coloration with longer stamens.

The new cultivar well meets the needs of the horticultural industry and can provide attractive ornamentation in the landscape as a distinctive specimen plant.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by the use of cuttings as performed at Borderes sur L'Echez, France, in a controlled environment has demonstrated that the characteristics of the new cultivar are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual propagation. A cutting commonly will initiate root development in approximately 45 to 60 days.

'Boubri' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light, day length, etc.

Brief Description of the Photographs

The depicted trees of the 'Boubri' cultivar were reproduced by the rooting of cuttings and were grown outdoors in the landscape at Borderes sur L'Echez, France.

FIG. 1 illustrates during the summer a typical specimen of a five year-old tree. A profusion of the attractive carmine magenta-red blossoms, and dark green foliage are apparent.

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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
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025200-043

FIG. 2 illustrates during the summer a typical specimen of a twelve year-old tree. The spreading generally umbrella-shaped growth habit, attractive carmine magenta-red blossoms, and dark green foliage similarly are apparent.

FIG. 3 illustrates a closer view of typical inflorescence and foliage.

FIG. 4 illustrates typical inflorescence wherein the colorful long tufted stamens are shown. The attractive glossy dark green foliage also is visible.

Detailed Description

The plant described was a sixteen year-old specimen of the 'Boubri' cultivar while growing outdoors in the landscape at Borderes sur L'Echez, France. The tree was observed from mid-July to the end of September. The color terminology utilized in the description is that of the R.H.S. Colour Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where common color terms are used and are to be accorded their ordinary dictionary significance.

PLANT:	<u>form</u>	--	the crown displays an attractive spreading generally umbrella-shaped growth habit. As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, there is significant horizontal spreading. The tree grows upward in somewhat distinct stages or horizontal ramifications.
	<u>height</u>	--	up to approximately 10 to 12 meters when fully mature.
	<u>width</u>	--	approximately 14 to 16 meters when fully mature.

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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
Filed July 29, 2004

025200-043

	<u>vigor</u>	--	a young tree may develop new shoot growth up to approximately 2.5 meters in length per year, and a mature tree may develop approximately 30 to 50 cm of new growth per year.
TRUNK:	<u>diameter</u>	--	approximately 40 to 50 cm for a fully mature tree measured one meter above the ground.
BRANCHES:	<u>young stems</u>	--	dark greenish-gray (near Greyed-Green Group 195A) and striped with dark brown. On a one year-old stem the lenticels are raised, substantially round in configuration, near white in coloration, approximately 1 to 1.5 mm in diameter, and commonly are present at a frequency of approximately 3 to 4 per square centimeter.
	<u>adult wood</u>	--	Greyed-Green Group 197B.
	<u>texture</u>	--	hard and firm.

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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
Filed July 29, 2004

025200-043

FOLIAGE:	<u>shape</u>	--	deciduous leaves are arranged bipinnate in pairs of approximately 10 to 12 pinnules on average which divide into approximately 20 to 30 pairs of leaflets.
	<u>length</u>	--	approximately 25 to 28 cm on average.
	<u>width</u>	--	approximately 12 to 14 cm on average.
	<u>petiole</u>	--	approximately 6.5 to 7.5 cm in length on average, and approximately 2.5 to 3 mm in diameter on average at the middle. The upper surface is near Yellow-Green Group 149B, and the under surface is near Yellow-Green Group 145C.
	<u>rachis</u>	--	bears a gland at the base.
	<u>leaflets</u>	--	<u>number</u> : approximately 200 to 360 per leaf.
		--	<u>shape</u> : curved-oblong, sharp falciform and frondlike.
	<u>length</u>	--	approximately 10 to 12 mm on average.
	<u>width</u>	--	approximately 2.5 to 3 mm on average.

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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
Filed July 29, 2004

025200-043

- texture: glossy, soft, and smooth on the upper and under surface.
- general appearance: finely textured and similar to that of *Delonix regia* that grows well a tropical environment.
- new foliage color: glossy dark green (Green Group 135B) and sometimes bears some purple (Red-Purple Group 71A) on the upper surface and pale green (Green Group 130A) on the under surface.
- mature foliage color: glossy ~~dark green~~ and Yellow-Green Group 149B on the upper surface and ~~greenish cream~~ Yellow-Green Group 138B on the under surface.
- base: rounded.
- margin: entire.

INFLORESCENCE:

blooming
period

- substantially continuous and commonly from mid-July to the end of September. Trees commonly must be

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Filed July 29, 2004

025200-043

at least three years of age before they
bloom.

bearing -- in pedunculate clusters of
approximately 20 to 30 on average
forming a corymb panicle having a
length of approximately 3 to 4 cm and
a diameter of approximately 0.7 to
0.8 cm when fully open. When the
flowers first begin to open, the
corymb panicle commonly measures
only approximately 0.6 to 0.7 cm in
length. A typical panicle includes
approximately 30 to 40 glomeruli.
The clusters flower from the bottom to
the top.

buds -- diameter: approximately 1.5 cm on
average. Buds commonly are visible
in the preceding fall following the
dropping of the leaves.

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Filed July 29, 2004

025200-043

- shape: round.
- color: near Yellow-Green Group 149A.
- flowers -- calyx and corolla: near Yellow-Green Group 150B in coloration.
- corolla size: approximately 0.55 cm in diameter, and approximately 0.45 cm in depth.
- ~~sepals~~ ~~approximately 3 to 3.5 mm in length, approximately 1.5 to 2 mm in width, and near Yellow-Green Group 150B in coloration.~~
- ~~peduncle~~ ~~approximately 4.5 to 5 cm in length, and approximately 1.5 mm in diameter.~~
- stamen shape: form a feathery tuft.
- stamen length: approximately 4 to 4.5 cm on average.

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025200-043

- stamen number: commonly in excess of 40.
- filaments: very thin, provide color to the stamens and are near White Group 155A at the base and carmine magenta-red (near Red-Purple Group 57A) towards the tip as illustrated in FIG. 4.
- stamen texture: very smooth.
- fragrance: very strong and similar to that of the wood of lime.
- anthers: minuscule in size, too small to be seen without magnification, and generally yellow in coloration.
- pollen: present and Yellow Group 5A in coloration.
- pistil number: one per flower.
- fruit: generally flattened and in the shape of an elongated pod with a

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Filed July 29, 2004

025200-043

wrinkled surface. The coloration is near Greyed-White Group 156B. The length is approximately 15 to 18 cm on average and the width is approximately 2.5 to 3 cm on average.

-- seeds: there commonly are approximately 10 to 15 seeds per fruit on average. The seed configuration is lenticular oval and the coloration is brown. The length commonly is approximately 8 to 10 mm, the thickness approximately 2 mm, and the width approximately 4.5 to 5 mm. The coloration is near Brown Group 200D.

sepals -- five in number, and elongated oval and pointed in configuration with an entire margin, approximately 3 to 3.5 mm in length, approximately 1.5

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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
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025200-043

peduncle == to 2 mm in width, and near Yellow-
Green Group 150B in coloration.
approximately 4.5 to 5 cm in length,
approximately 1.5 mm in diameter,
and near Yellow-Green Group 152A
in coloration.

TOLERANCE TO DISEASES

Very good with no particular
susceptibility to diseases having been
observed during observations to date.

HARDINESS

Very good. The 'Boubri' cultivar has
been found to well resist cold and
continues to blossom even when tested
in the north of France.